



GENERAL NOTICE – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Subject: Early Implementation of Protocol #2.6: Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)

Notice #: 009

Issued: 9/14/2010

Effective: Immediately

Authorized by: Samuel W. Adams, Interim Chief, Emergency Medical Services

To address the ongoing national shortage of FUROSEMIDE (Lasix™), all Ambulance Services are hereby directed to implement the new *Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)* protocol as soon as possible and no later than October 1, 2010. Based on growing evidence that FUROSEMIDE is not acutely helpful in CHF, the new *Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)* protocol de-emphasizes use of FUROSEMIDE and substantially lowers the maximum dose.

In conjunction with the new *Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)* protocol, and effective immediately, the minimum quantity of FUROSEMIDE that must be stocked on an ALS ambulance is now 80mg (injectable vials) as indicated in *General Notice #006: Revised Minimum Standards for Rhode Island-Licensed Ambulances*.

All other revised protocols should be implemented as previously planned.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. Should you have any questions related to this General Notice, please contact the Division of EMS at (401) 222-2401.

Authorizing Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SWA", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 9/14/2010